

RELISHING THE ESSENCE AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Part I: The Essence Of God

B. Treasuring The Simplicity Of God In His Essence

(1 John 1:5-7)

I. Introduction

- A. Due to the inconsistencies created by sin, we mortals often bear a heady mix of contradictory motives, habits and aspirations that harm relationships! For example, we may want to be seen but not seen at the same time as we wish to be admired and yet keep our privacy, a contradiction that harms relationships!
- B. In contrast to sinful man, God is not complicated: He is simple in His essence, or "the stuff of which God consists" for lack of a better expression; if applied in our lives, this truth yields great blessing (as follows):

II. Treasuring The Simplicity Of God In His Essence, 1 John 1:5-7.

- A. In one of the best statements on the **simplicity** of God's essence in Scripture, John wrote the message that Jesus expounded in His earthly life was that God was light, and in Him was no darkness at all, 1 Jn. 1:1-5.
- B. To begin to understand what John meant by this assertion, and thus to understand the simplicity of God's essence, we view the context out of which John wrote this statement to discern his definition of "light":
 1. In his Gospel, John 1:4, the Apostle John indicated the **life** that was in Christ was the "light" of men.
 2. Against the geographical and historical setting of John's interaction with Jesus, we know the **earthly LIFE** of Christ was thus **GOD'S REVELATION** to man who was in **spiritual darkness** in **Galilee**:
 - a. John was called by Jesus to follow Christ in the setting of the land of Galilee, Matthew 4:18-22.
 - b. Well, the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah had predicted Messiah would arise in Galilee as God's "Great Light" for the people there who were in deep spiritual darkness, Isaiah 9:1-2.
 - c. This "darkness" had come as the people of Galilee had turned from the written Word of God in the Old Testament to seek insight from spirit mediums, cf. Isaiah 8:19.
 - d. Indeed, Isaiah had complained that since these people no longer had the saying, "To the word (of God) and to the testimony (of God in Scripture)" in them, they did not have the light of dawn, or the hope of any insight into spiritual truth, Isaiah 8:20 NIV, ESV!
 - e. Thus, the **earthly life** of **Christ** was God's **Great Light** of revealed truth graciously sent from the Father to fill the void of darkness left when men had *refused* God's insight found in the Old Testament **Scripture**. Jesus is God's **Word personified**, a fact that becomes clear in Revelation 19:11-16 where, in His Second Coming, He bears the title, "The Word of God," cf. Rev. 19:13b.
 3. The definition for "light" in 1 John 1:5 then is this: "light" is God's revelation of Himself in written Scripture and in the earthly life of His Son, Jesus Christ; what these entities reveal about God is **EXACTLY** what He **IS**, and **NOTHING** that is **CONTRARY** to these in **any** way rightly reflects God!
- C. Accordingly, to **RELATE effectively** to this God of **utter SIMPLICITY** as is suggested by 1 John 1:5, John meant we **must** order our lives in **FULL ALIGNMENT** with **SCRIPTURE** and with **Christ's example in His earthly life**; otherwise, we lie if we claim we walk with Him but do not heed these, 1:6.
- D. John related that when we **do** order our lives in **total** accord with Scripture revelation and with the example of Christ's earthly life as God has **ADEQUATELY** and **PRECISELY** revealed Himself in these sources of His special revelation, we are assured we have full rapport with God and all other believers who do the same as we do; also, in this blessed rapport with God, the blood of Jesus Christ, God's son graciously, continually cleanses us all from all sin, cf. 1 John 1:7 (present tense of *katharidzei*)!

Lesson: Since God is **SIMPLE** in **ESSENCE**, we can be **SURE** we relate well with Him **ONLY** if we **FULLY HEED** His **WRITTEN WORD** and the **EXAMPLE** of His Son in His earthly life. **FAILURE** to do this then **SURELY** means we **LOSE** rapport with God due to this same **SIMPLICITY** of His essence!

Application: (1) May we not presume that God deals with us in a capricious way as pagans think their gods do with them. No -- God is **UNCOMPLICATED**: we **KNOW** for **SURE** where we stand with Him by way of written Scripture and the example of His Son's earthly life that is revealed in Scripture! (2) May we **IMMERSE** our minds in **SCRIPTURE** to know how to relate well with God for blessing, (3) and may we rely upon the Holy Spirit's power to **DO** what Scripture thus dictates, cf. Gal. 5:16-23!